



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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Sensenbrenner Highlights PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #12

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.) today highlighted the twelfth of the dozens of civil liberties safeguards included in the PATRIOT Act conference report approved last month by a bipartisan majority of the House and pending before the U.S. Senate.

PATRIOT Act Conference Report Civil Liberty Safeguard #12 – Providing Explicit Judicial Review of a Nondisclosure Requirement to a National Security Letter (NSL):

Current law does not allow the recipient of an NSL to challenge a nondisclosure order attached to the NSL. The conference report changes this by explicitly providing for judicial review of a nondisclosure requirement to an NSL. **The NSL recipient may challenge the nondisclosure requirement in the U.S. district court for the district in which the recipient does business or resides.** This civil liberty safeguard does not exist in current law and was written by Rep. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.).

Originally created by a Democrat-led Congress and signed into law by President Carter, NSLs are a long-standing tool by which the FBI and other appropriate federal law enforcement officials request, for sensitive foreign spying or international terrorism investigations, subscriber information and toll billing records of a wire or electronic communication service provider, such as a phone company or AOL.

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